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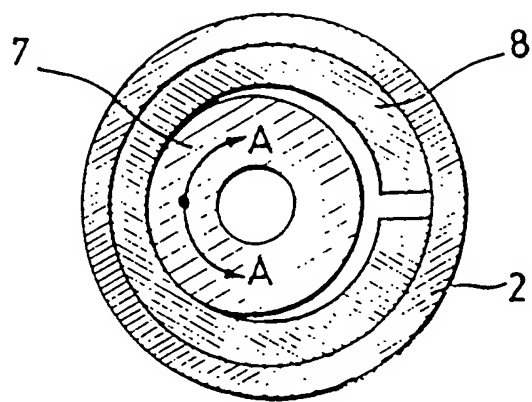
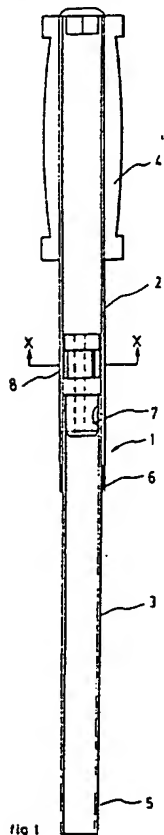
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(54) Telescopic handles

(57) A handle 1 for an appliance is provided which comprises a first tube 2, a second tube 3 arranged telescopically with the first tube 2, a crank device 7 located partly within the first tube 2 and partly within the second tube 3 and having thereon a split ring 8 mounted eccentrically with respect to the axis of the tubes 2 and 3, the split ring 8 being located within the first tube 2. Relative rotation of the tubes causes the split ring to engage tube 2 and effect locking of the tubes.



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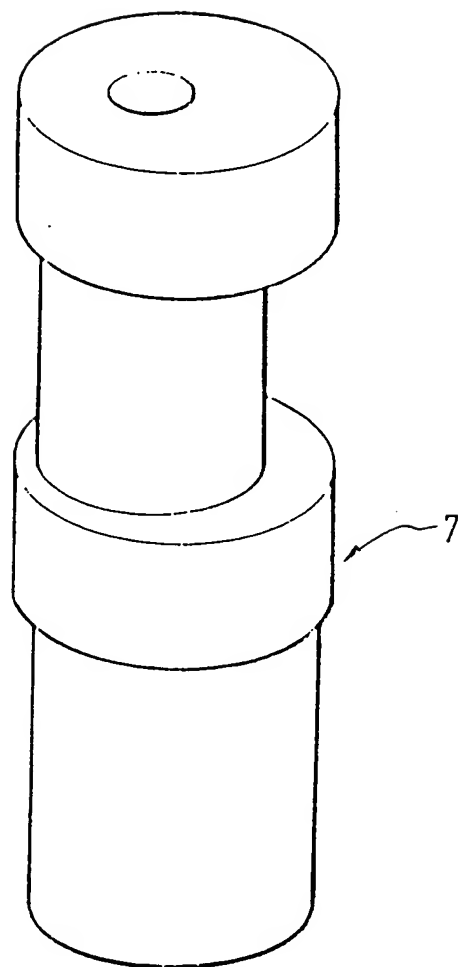
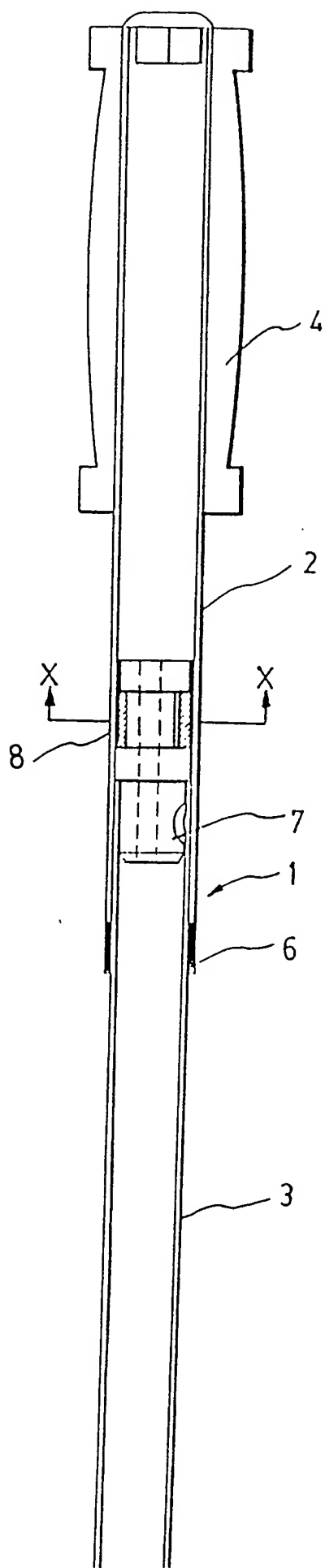


fig 2

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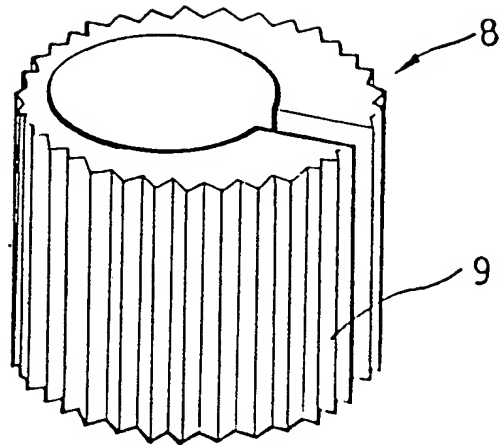


fig 3

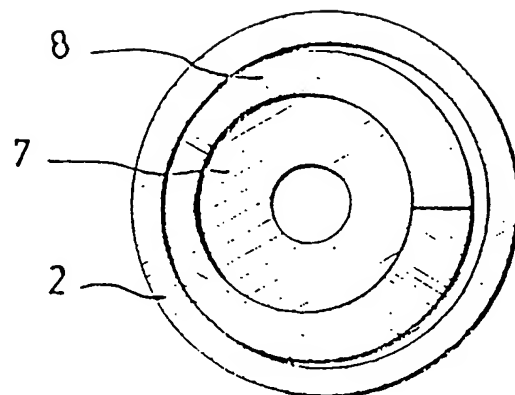


fig 5

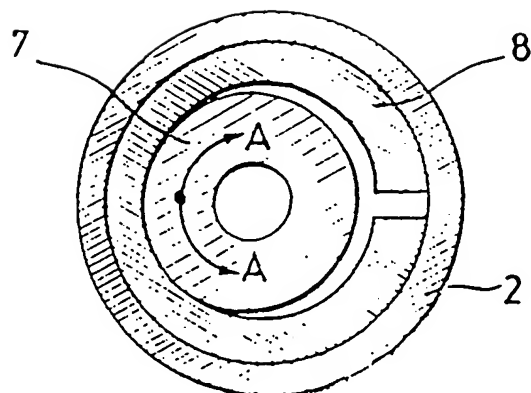


fig 4

## ADJUSTABLE LENGTH HANDLE FOR AN APPLIANCE

The present invention relates to an adjustable length handle for appliances.

5 There are many appliances, both domestic and otherwise, where it would be desirable to be able to variably adjust the length of the handle used to manipulate the appliance. For example with vacuum cleaners it would be desirable to be able to adjust the length of the handle so that the vacuum cleaner can be used to reach otherwise  
10 inaccessible parts of the area being cleaned.

I have sought to provide a handle for appliances in which the operative length thereof can be adjusted to the desirable length.

Accordingly the present invention provides a  
15 handle for an appliance which comprises a first tube, a second tube arranged telescopically with the first tube, a crank device located partly within the first tube and partly within the second tube and having thereon a split ring mounted eccentrically with respect to the axis  
20 of the tubes, the split ring being located within the first tube. In use in a first position the second tube can freely move telescopically within the first tube, the first and second tubes can be moved clockwise and/or anticlockwise relative to one another to a second position  
25 whereby the split ring engages the inner wall of the first tube to hold the two tubes rigidly together against telescopic movement.

Preferably the split ring has an outer toothed surface to provide a good grip on the inner wall of the first tube.

5 In a further embodiment the handle can be provided with one or more further tubes which can fit telescopically and lockingly together as described above.

One particular use of the handle of the present invention is with a vacuum cleaner.

10 The invention is further illustrated in the accompanying drawings wherein:-

Figure 1 is a vertical section through a handle in accordance with the present invention;

15 Figure 2 is a perspective view on an enlarged scale of the crank;

Figure 3 is a perspective view on an enlarged scale of the split ring; and

Figure 4 is a cross-section on line X-X of Figure 1 on an enlarged scale.

20 Figure 5 is a cross-section on Line X-X of Figure 1 on an enlarged scale

25 Figure 1 shows a handle shown generally as 1 which comprises a first tube 2 and a second tube 3 which fits telescopically within the first tube 2. The handle is also provided with a grip 4 at one end, the other end 5 being adapted to fit into an appliance. The first tube 2

is provided with a stop ring 6 which when the handle 1 has been assembled prevents tube 3 from being removed entirely from tube 2. Mounted within tubes 2 and 3 is a crank 7 (shown in detail in Figure 2). Located around a portion of the crank 7 is a split ring 8 (shown in detail in Figure 3). As shown in Figure 3 the split ring 8 has a toothed outer surface 9 and is so shaped as to be mounted eccentrically around the axis of the handle 1.

In Figure 4 the handle 1 is shown in the "unlocked" position i.e. tube 3 can move freely telescopically within tube 2. To lock the tubes 2 and 3 together to prevent telescopic movement, tubes 2 and 3 are moved either clockwise or anticlockwise relative to one another in the direction shown by arrows A in Figure 4.

In Figure 5 the handle 1 is shown in the "locked" position i.e. tube 3 cannot move freely telescopically within tube 2.

C L A I M S

1. A handle for an appliance which comprises a first tube, a second tube arranged telescopically with the first tube, a crank device located partly within the first tube and partly within the second tube and having thereon a split ring mounted eccentrically with respect to the axis of the tubes, the split ring being located within the first tube.
2. A handle as claimed in claim 1, in which the split ring has an outer toothed surface.
3. A handle as claimed in claim 1 or 2, comprising one or more further tubes, each arranged to fit telescopically within another tube.
4. A handle as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, in which the appliance is a vacuum cleaner.
5. A handle as claimed in claim 1, substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

